

# Birchtree Friday Update

Birchtree Charter School 7107 E. Palmer Wasilla Hwy. Palmer, AK



August 21, 2015

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Welcome to the 2015-16 school year! If you are new to Birchtree Charter School, we are excited that you are part of a very special charter school!

Our mission at Birchtree Charter School is to create a warm and caring educational atmosphere using Waldorf principles. We strongly believe in the education of the whole child –socially, emotionally, and academically. The staff will not be able to accomplish this task alone; we need your support.

Parents are always welcome at our school. We expect parents to have thirty-six hours of volunteer hours per year. There are many ways to meet the hours. You can volunteer to help in the classroom, library, or in one or more of the school programs. Please check with your child's teacher and read the newsletter for other ways to volunteer. Additionally, please consider joining the Birchtree Parent's Guild (BPG). The BPG meets one time per month and the meetings are always open for anyone to attend.

Parents can make significant contributions to their child's education by reading to them, making sure they have a healthy snack and lunch, making sure there is a quiet study space for them as well as to be available to assist them with more difficult homework assignments, and to make sure they are well-rested for the next day of school. As a result of your involvement, your child will more than likely demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviors toward school and learning.

We are looking forward to working with you this year. By working together, students, parents, and staff will make Birchtree an exciting and enjoyable place to learn.

Sincerely,

Cathy Busbey, Principal

Brandt Bowen, Assistant Principal

## Save The Date

August 25th: 1st grade parent night  
6-7 PM

August 25th Ms. Albina's Parent  
night 6-7 PM

August 26th Mr. Danz Parent night  
6-7 PM

August 26th: 2nd grade parent night  
6-7

August 26th: 3rd grade parent night  
6-7 PM

August 27th: 5th grade parent night  
6-7 PM

August 27th: 6th Grade parent night  
6-7 PM

September 1st: 7th grade parent  
night 6-7 PM

September 1st: 8th grade parent  
night 6-7 PM

September 2nd: Kindergarten parent  
night 6-7 PM

September 3rd : Middle School  
Cross Country Meet @ WMS

September 10th: Middle School  
Cross Country Meet @ CMS

September 18th Picture Day with  
Life Touch

September 23rd: Elementary Cross  
Country Meet

September 26th: Fall Faire Times  
TBA

October 16, 2015 picture re-takes  
with Life Touch

### Autumnal Air

Each summer, I watch fireweed blossoms as they bloom upward along the stalks. As these flowers approach the tip, they signal summer's impending end and the beginning of autumn. This beckons me: it's time to return to school. Nature provides other signals at the change of seasons as well. Days are a little shorter now, nights are a bit darker, and mornings are much cooler. Soon, it will be time to turn plant remnants into the soil and put garden beds to rest for the long winter.

Seeing a star-studded night sky once again spurs something in me. I anticipate the beginning of fall, with its blazing colors. I look forward to gathering all the fruits of summer and putting them up for winter. In Waldorf schools around the world, this time is celebrated with fall festivals, often referred to as Michaelmas festivals. Our Fall Faire is scheduled for September 26, so mark your calendars for a day filled with activities that bridge summer and winter.

Two weeks ago, night owls were rewarded with a fantastic meteor shower. It harkened me to the following thought, expressed by Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Waldorf Education:

What is happening in the great expanse of space has its minute counterpart continuously in myself. Out there are the shooting stars, while in every one of my blood corpuscles, iron is taking form; my life is full of shooting stars, miniature shooting stars.

Warmly,

Donna Levesque

Pedagogical Dean



### School Year 2015-16 Bus Schedule

**Morning Route:** Birchtree's Bus schedule will be as follows:

Departs Wasilla Target parking lot  
(near Walgreens) leaving at 7:25  
AM

Departs Palmer Public Library parking  
lot at 7:55 AM

Arrives at Birchtree Charter School at  
8:10 AM



**Afternoon Route:**

- Departs Birchtree Charter School at 3:30 PM.
- Arrives at Wasilla Target parking lot at 3:40 PM (near Walgreens)
- Arrives at AT & T at 3:50 PM

Arrives at Palmer Public Library at 4:00 PM.

**Early Release Thursdays:**

- Departs Birchtree Charter School at 1:45 PM.
- Arrives at Wasilla Target parking lot at 1:55 PM (near Walgreens)
- Arrives at AT & T at 2:00 PM

Arrives at Palmer Public Library at 2:10 PM



Please note that all of these times are **approximate**, and you should arrive at the drop-off/pick-up site at the earliest estimated time.

### Elementary Cross Country

Cross Country Running starts Monday August 24th. All 4th and 5th grade students are welcome to join. Practice will begin on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:20 –4:40 PM. We ask that all participants be picked up by 4:50 PM. Thursday early release day practice will be held from 1:20– 2:40 PM.

All practices will be outdoors. Please dress for the weather.

A Fee of \$10.00 and permission slip is required in order to participate in this activity.

I am looking forward to working with your children and having a fun season

~Coach Andrist



## Volunteer Opportunities

Spread wood chips in the play scape area for more info please contact the front office.

Build a stage for our new multipurpose room/ gym. If Interested please see Mr. Bowen.

We need a parent to make bean bags. Material is bought and purchased. Please see Susan Halseth.

Can you knit or crochet? Come spend a cheery afternoon or two each week helping teach first second and third graders in handwork class! Great volunteer opportunity! If you can help, please contact Kristin Fry at 745-5319 or [kristin.fry@matsuk12.us](mailto:kristin.fry@matsuk12.us). I hope to hear from you soon.

Picture day is September 18th . Lifetouch is looking for 4-5 volunteers to help that day with students. If you are interested please see Vanessa Becker in the front office.

## German Corner

Willkommen !

I was happy to see all the old and new students again. Congratulations to a power start in German. Students you are fabulous!

Parents please support 4th-8<sup>th</sup> grade at home by providing index cards and an index box for vocabulary study for weekly quizzes.

Dankeschoen!

German Fall verse:

Lass den Sommergehen (let the summer go)

Lass Sturm und Winde wehen (let storm and winds blow)

Bleibt diese Rosmeim (if this rose stays mine)

Wie koennt ich traurig sein (how could I be sad)



## Lost and Found

Two Violins are at the front office from last year. Also Mrs. Eddings has violins in her room left from last year.

### Gratitude's and Expressions.

Thank you first grade parents for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend our open house, parent meeting, and roll in. We appreciate all the interest in volunteering and are enjoying getting to know your child! Mrs. Jirik and Mrs. Tran

Many thanks to Mrs. Albina and her daughter, Bre, for acquiring a donation of flowers from Home Depot and planting them, adding much needed color to our school's entrance.

Thank you to the Birchtree Parent Guild for hosting our annual back-to-school picnic. Also a special thanks goes to Ms. Beth and Ms. Vanessa for washing potatoes and Deb Keefe and Barb Andrist for preparing the wonderful baked potatoes!

### Kindergarten

We are looking forward to seeing all of our kindergarten friends beginning on Monday from 8:30-12:30 (Thursday 8:30-1:30). Please remember to send a healthy lunch with your child each day except for Thursdays (soup day). Our lunchtime is 12:00-12:30.

~ Ms. Vanessa, Ms. Kim & Ms. Celena

### News From Ms. Albina

Students in Albina's class launched our 4th grade year with an August Picnic. New students and former students got to meet one another and play in the summer sun. The class warmly welcomes Benjamin, Maya, Kanasha, Noah, and Mac to Birchtree. This first week of school has been busy building community in our classroom, learning new names,



new songs and verses, new school expectations and procedures, and new math vocabulary. With so many smiling faces and such avid enthusiasm it is sure to be a great year!

# August/September 2015

**\*Early Release days are every Thursday at 1:30\***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16	17 Welcome Back to School	18	19 BPG	20	21	22
23	24 Rose Ceremony for kindergarten and 8th grade students First day for kin- dergarten and 1st grade	25 1st grade parent night 6-7 PM Ms. Albina's Parent night 6-7 PM	26 Mr. Danz parent night 6-7 PM 2nd & 3rd grade parent night 6-7 PM	27 Mr. Danz's class overnight field trip 5th and 6th grade parent night 6-7 PM	28	29
30	21	1 7th and 8th grade parent night 6-7 PM	2 Kindergarten par- ent night 6-7 PM	3 Middle School Cross country @ WMS Time TBA	4 No School	5
6	7 No School	8	9	10 Middle School cross Country @ CMS Time TBA	11 Pastries for Par- ents 8:30-10 AM	12
13	14	15	16 APC 6-8 @ Birch- tree	17	18	19